

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 12572

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ECIN, EEC, SP
SUBJECT: SPAIN AND THE EC

REF: MADRID 9467

1. EC COMMISSION OFFICIAL AND PERMDEL OFFICIALS HAVE CONFIRMED TO MISSION OFFICER THAT IN HIS INITIAL CALLS ON DUTCH FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL AND EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT ORTOLI, NEW SPANISH AMBASSADOR TO EC BASSOLS MADE POINTS REPORTED IN REFTEL'S PARA 2.

2. THESE OFFICIALS TOLD US THAT AS REGARDS SPANISH APPLICATION FOR EC MEMBERSHIP, VAN DER STOEL AND ORTOLI: (A) "CONGRATULATED" SPAIN ON ITS CONTINUING DEMOCRATIC EVOLUTION, AND (B) SPOKE IN GENERAL TERMS OF SOME OF THE PROBLEMS THE COMMUNITY WILL HAVE TO CONSIDER IN EXAMINING A SPANISH APPLICATION. ORTOLI SAID SPANISH MEMBERSHIP WOULD HAVE IMPORTANT IMPLICATIONS FOR COMMUNITY AGRICULTURAL POLICY, SINCE MANY SPANISH AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS ARE DIRECTLY COMPETITIVE WITH THOSE OF SOME EC COUNTRIES. (COMMENT: THIS IS A THEME THAT FRENCH OFFICIALS HERE ARE PARTICULARLY WONT TO EMPHASIZE IN DISCUSSING A
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SPANISH APPLICATION, AND ORTOLI IS DOUBTLESS SENSITIVE TO FRENCH GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT. END COMMENT.) VAN DER STOEL, ON OTHER HAND, EMPHASIZED -- AS DUTCH FREQUENTLY DO WHEN COMMENTING ON POTENTIAL COMMUNITY ENLARGEMENT -- THAT FURTHER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS WILL POSE PROB-

LEMS RELATING TO DECISION-MAKING AND OTHER INTERNAL WORKINGS OF COMMUNITY WHICH THE EC HAS THUS FAR BEEN RELUCTANT TO FACE.

3. BASSOLS AND EC OFFICIALS AGREED THAT NEGOTIATIONS ON UPDATING THE 1970 SPAIN-EC SIX AGREEMENT TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF SPAIN'S TRADE WITH THREE NEWEST EC MEMBERS (EC BRUSSELS 9605) SHOULD BE RESUMED EARLY IN THE NEW YEAR. ACCORDING TO COMMISSION OFFICIAL, EACH SIDE BELIEVES OTHE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR DELAY IN TALKS TO DATE: "PERHAPS BOTH SIDES ARE PARTIALLY RIGHT. THE THING IS TO GET THE DISCUSSIONS GOING AGAIN."

4. COMMISSION OFFICIAL NOTED THAT EC-SPAIN FISHERIES TALKS RESUME DECEMBER 22. IN REPLY TO BASSOLS' QUESTION RE SIZE AND TYPES OF CATCH COMMUNITY IS PREPARED TO GRANT SPAIN, VAN DER STOEL AND ORTOLI NOTED ONLY THAT FISHING ISSUE IS IMPORTANT FOR BOTH EC AND SPAIN, AND THAT THE COMMUNITY UNDERSTANDS FULLY THE ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE THE GOS ATTACHES TO IT.
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